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M.L.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Naohiko NOGUCHI et al.

Serial No : Not Yet Assigned

Filed : Concurrently Herewith

For : FILE MANAGEMENT METHOD, CONTENT RECORDING/PLAYBACK  
APPARATUS AND CONTENT RECORDING PROGRAM

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fees and the examination of the above-identified patent application on the merits, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 16 and 18 as follows (a marked-up copy of the claim amendments is provided as an attachment to this Amendment):

AI 16. (Amended-Clean Text) The content playback apparatus according to claim 15 that, when content is distributed in package units in which related content is collected, using the metadata correspondence management file containing correspondence between an identifier of said package and an identifier of a metadata file corresponding thereto, acquires a metadata file corresponding to said package.